percentage of rise in the incidence of child marriages in the country stating the names of the States where such incidence of marriages have been reported the most; and

(b) what are the weaknesses, if any, identified by Government in the implementation of law forbidding child marriage and the steps contemplated by Government to check this social evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 was amended in 1978 with a view to provide that offences under the Act shall be cognizable for the purpose of investigation and for a matters other than matters referred to in section 42 of the Cr. P.C. 1973 (arrest on refusal to give name and residence) and the arrest of a person without a warrant or without an order of the magistrate. As the provisions of the Act are sufficiently deterrent, no further action is contemplated in this regard. The practice of Child marriage has deeply embedded among certain sections of the society and any legislation, however stringent its provisions may be, would not achieve the object of stopping this practice. It is only through social and economic upliftment of these sections that the practice can be eradicated completely.

Achievements of Central Mining Research Station

@@2750. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the important achievements of Central Mining Research Station in the year 1986-87;

(b) if so, what are the achievements relating to the Coal mining;

(c) whether they are feasible; and

(d) if so, whether they have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The important achievements of Central Mining Research Station relating to coal mining during the year 1986-87 are as follows:—

i. Introduction of mechanised Depillaring for extraction of coal locked up in pillars at Govinda colliery.

ii. Designed and developed a recoverable roof bolting system for supporting the freshly exposed roof which can be easily dismantled and re-used. This system has been successfully experimented at Hinger Rampur Colliery.

iii. Conducted studies resulting in higher recovery of coal from

@@ Previouly Unstarred Question 1433, transferred from the 8th August, 1988.

underneath surface features at Burhar mines without disturbing safety.

iv. Monitoring of behaviour of roof and support at two mechanised Longwall faces in Eastern coalfields resulting in increased production of coal.

v. Evolved a techique for draining out the methane gas from underground mines and storing it at the surface for domestic use. This was demonstrated at Sawang Colleiry.

vi. Conducted experiment at Jitpur Colliery proving that infusion of silicic acid gel can be an effective method for reducing spontaneous heating of coal.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) These techniques have been implemented and adopted by the respective collieries.

Vacant Post of Director in Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics, Allahabad

2751. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Allahabad has no Director at present;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the staff working in the Institute is not adequate and the research work done there is not of high quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes Sir, the Institute has no Director at present.

(b) Efforts are being made to find a suitable person to head the Institute.

(c) The total number of scientific staff engaged in research work in the Institute is five. Even with this small team of researchers, the Institute has been active in many areas of mathematics, particularly combinatorics, graph theory, summability, operator theory and control theory.

Fire practice range of Bofors Gun in Sivalik Hills

2752. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the firing practice range for the Bofors Guns in the Sivalik Hills adjoining the Rajaji National Park at Dehradun has been opposed by the wild life experts;

(b) whether it is a fact that according to the international wild life rules human intrusion within a 10 Km radius of the national park boundaries is prohibited; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Sivalik Hills are ecologically fragile to stand the heavy pounding of the Howitzers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES